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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: November 9, 1965

FROM : F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Branigan

SUBJECT: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
LEAD INVESTIGATIONS
RACIAL MATTERS (KLAN)

1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Rosack

A Bureau source who is very close to Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, has advised that Lester Chalmers, Shelton's attorney, met with Congressman Edwin E. Willis, Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, during the weekend of November 6, 1965, possibly in New Orleans. During this meeting Chalmers explained to Willis the story concerning Lee Oswald's involvement in some bombings in Alabama.

As will recall that this source previously advised that shortly before the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy, Shelton was allegedly contacted by James Venable, leader of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Venable indicated that Oswald had been active in some bombings in Alabama and offered the services of Oswald to Shelton, which offer Shelton declined. Shelton, according to the source, also related that Oswald was in Atlanta, Georgia, when former President Kennedy was scheduled to speak at Georgia Tech. The speech was cancelled, but according to Shelton, Oswald engaged in some picketing activity and was photographed. The Atlanta Office has checked with one of our informants, who was allegedly in on the meeting between Shelton and Venable, and the informant advised that no such meeting took place. The Atlanta Office has also previously checked on allegations regarding Oswald's presence in Atlanta prior to the assassination of President Kennedy and has determined that all such allegations were not factual.

According to our source, Chalmers indicated that Willis was amazed with the above story as told to him by Chalmers but made no commitment other than to say that he (Willis) would contact Chalmers when he returned to Washington, D. C.

Source also advised that Willis had told Chalmers that Sheriff Nert Lowe was engaged in a run-off campaign for 199 NOV 23 1965 and had to be protected if he was going to win. We previously received information that Willis is trying to arrange for Chalmers to represent Sheriff Lowe during Lowe's appearance before the Committee. Sheriff Lowe had been a member of the Bonshoro, Louisiana, Unit of the United Klans of America and is from the Congressional District of Otto Passman, Democrat of Louisiana.

TPB:jmm (7)

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/23/93 BY 9803 ASD/gcl

Memorandum Baumgardner to Sullivan
RE: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
KLAN INVESTIGATIONS
157-5

The source further advised that Robert Scoggins, Grand Dragon for the State of South Carolina, had been notified by the Veterans Administration that his disability pension has been reduced. Shelton feels that this was a retaliatory measure taken by the Committee and the Veterans Administration against Scoggins. Therefore, the Klan is lodging a protest with the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans. Shelton stated that when Raymond Anderson, the Grand Dragon for the State of Tennessee, appears to testify before the Committee, Shelton and members of the press would accompany Anderson to the Veterans Administration to inquire if Anderson's disability pension will also be reduced.

It is noted that Anderson is a Bureau informant, who while serving in the Armed Forces during the Korean Conflict lost his left arm. This loss entitled him to a disability pension.

Observations:

Chairman Willis is being contacted by Assistant Director DeLoach concerning the information furnished to him by Chalmers regarding Oswald and to advise Willis that the information is not factual. It appears that Shelton is circulating the story in order to possibly discredit Venable, who he feels has furnished information to the Committee concerning Shelton and Shelton's Klan organization. Although Venable did testify in executive session, a review of the testimony indicates that he furnished little or no information of value, and Shelton's assumption is erroneous.

The information regarding Shelton's proposed visit to the Veterans Administration is known only to a limited number of individuals including the source and Anderson, who is also a Bureau informant. In the event we advise the Veterans Administration of this matter, it could possibly result in the loss of two valuable sources since the Veterans Administration may reveal that they had advance knowledge of this visit. It is not believed that any real harm will be caused by this action on the part of Shelton and, therefore, it is felt that the Veterans Administration should not be advised.

We have previously advised the White House and the Attorney General regarding Willis' actions with regard to Sheriff Lowe.

ACTION:

For information.

*This was done
see DeLoach
memo 11/9*